

Message Text

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13

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-05 IO-10

L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-05

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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 656

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0434

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: POSSIBLE EASTERN MOVE TO RESTRICT INITIAL REDUCTIONS TO GROUND FORCES

REF: MBFR VIENNA 0417

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AT NOVEMBER 20 SOVIET RECEPTION, FOR THE SECOND TIME IN ONE WEEK, THE CZECHOSLOVAK DEPREP (MEISNER) INDICATED TO US DELOFF THAT THE EAST MIGHT MOVE TO DEVELOP ITS INITIAL REDUCTION STEP PROPOSAL IN THE DIRECTION OF A FOCUS ON GROUND FORCES.

2. DURING NOVEMBER 20 BILATERAL EXCHANGE WITH US DELOFF (KAPLAN), CZECHOSLOVAK DEPREP (MEISNER) AGAIN TOOK INITIATIVE

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TO INDICATE POSSIBLE EASTERN FLEXIBILITY ON THE ISSUE OF

WHAT TYPE OF FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED IN AN INITIAL AGREEMENT. MEISNER COMMENTED THAT THE BELGIAN REP (ADRIENSSSEN) HAD IN HIS NOVEMBER 14 PLENARY STATEMENT CRITICIZED THE EASTERN INITIAL REDUCTION STEP PROPOSAL AND TERMED IT UNACCEPTABLE. MEISNER SAID THE EAST ALSO FOUND THE ALLIED POSITION UNACCEPTABLE. HE OBSERVED THAT THE TWO SIDES THUS SEEMED TO BE IN A STATE OF DEADLOCK. US DELOFF CONFIRMED THAT THE CURRENT EASTERN PROPOSAL WAS UNACCEPTABLE AND AGREED THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE MAKING NO PROGRESS.

3. AT THIS POINT, MEISNER REPEATED HIS NOVEMBER 13 COMMENTS TO US DELOFF THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT MATTER FOR THE EAST WAS THAT THE FORCES OF ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS -- AND PARTICULARLY THOSE OF THE FRG -- REDUCE FROM THE OUTSET. MEISNER SAID THAT THE PACT DEMAND FOR REDUCTIONS OF ALL TYPES OF FORCES -- AIR AND NUCLEAR, AS WELL AS GROUND FORCES -- WAS NOT AS IMPORTANT TO THE EAST AS THE ISSUE OF WHOSE FORCES WOULD REDUCE FROM THE OUTSET. HE SAID THERE COULD BE EASTERN FLEXIBILITY REGARDING THE WESTERN DEMAND FOR A FOCUS ON GROUND FORCE REDUCTIONS, BUT SAID THIS FLEXIBILITY SHOULD BE IN THE CONTEXT OF A FIRST STEP AGREEMENT. MEISNER DID NOT REPEAT HIS COMMENT OF NOVEMBER 13 TO THE EFFECT THAT SUCH EASTERN FLEXIBILITY WOULD EVIDENCE ITSELF IN THE NEXT TWO OR THREE WEEKS.

4. ATTENTION IS DRAWN IN THIS CONNECTION TO ARTICLE ON EASTERN INITIAL STEP PROPOSAL WHICH APPEARED IN THE PARIS LE FIGERO OF NOVEMBER 11, 1974. THE ARTICLE, WHICH IS DATED IN WARSAW AND CITES POLISH SOURCES AS AUTHORITY, STATES INTER ALIA: "THIS IS NOT THE ONLY CONCESSION MADE BY THE EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES: THE NEW CONCRETE PROPOSALS DO NOT MENTION ANY REDUCTION IN AIR AND NUCLEAR FORCES AND ARMS. NOW, THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES HAVE HITHERTO INSISTED THAT ANY REDUCTION IN THIS SPHERE -- WHERE THE WEST ENJOYS SUPERIORITY -- SHOULD PROCEED SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH A REDUCTION IN GROUND FORCES RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING. THIS WAS OPPOSED BY NATO." RESOR

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